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SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

COMPRISING A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF HIS

IMPORTANT CIVIL AND MILITARY SERVICES:

INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

VICTORIES OF TIPPECANOE, FORT MEIGGS,  
AND THE THAMES.

GENERAL WILLIAM H HARRISON.

THE HERO

of Tippecanoe, Fort Meigs, and the Thames,  
— his victories in the War of 1812,

1836.



# LIFE OF GENERAL HARRISON.

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## CHAPTER I.

[Sketch of the father of Harrison—Services in the House of Burgesses—Takes a decided part with the Whigs in the American Revolution—Elected a member of the Continental Congress—Anecdote—Important services in Congress—Calls up resolutions declaring America Independent—Supports and signs Declaration of Independence—Revolutionary Anecdote—Birth of Wm. Henry Harrison—Educated by the immortal Morris, the financier of the Revolution—Determines to enter the Army, then struggling with the Indians on the Frontier—Commissioned by Washington—Hardship and dangers of the Service—Defeat of St. Clair—Appointment of Wayne—Victory—Gallantry of Harrison elicits the admiration and praise of Wayne—Victory of Grand Glaize—Harrison again distinguished and again publicly complimented by his Commander—Peace with the Indians—Harrison promoted—Appointed to the Command of Fort Washington.]

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, is the third son of Benjamin Harrison, of Berkley, Virginia, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and subsequently Governor of Virginia.\* His father was one of the most active political leaders of the Revolution; indeed so important were his services, that it would be injustice to him and his compatriots to pass them over in silence.

Before he had attained his twenty-first year, he was elected to represent his native county in the House of Burgesses. This he did with so much zeal and effect as to attract immediately, the attention of the British Government. In order to rid themselves of the opposition of one, who had already proved himself a staunch and powerful friend of the People, they proposed to introduce him, notwithstanding his immature age, into the Executive Council of the State—a body corresponding in character with the English Privy Council.

The oppression of the Crown of Great Britain having been already felt throughout the colonies, this proposal, notwithstanding its advantages, was promptly rejected; and Mr. Harrison took sides with the People in the approaching struggle, between them and the Crown.

On the fourteenth of November, 1761, he was one of a committee to prepare a remonstrance against the onerous Stamp Act which the British Cabinet at that time contemplated.

From this time forward, in company with such men as Lee, Heslop,

\*The facts connected with the life of Benjamin Harrison are taken from Sanders' "Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence," "Vulg. Life of Benjamin Harrison.



Nichols, and others, his whole energies were directed towards a VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENTS OF THE CROWN.

He was a member of the first Continental Congress, which assembled in Philadelphia on the fifth September, 1774. It is well known that the proceedings of this body were pacific in their character. They adopted an address to the Crown and resolved to await quietly its effect.

In the year 1775, Mr. Harrison again appeared as a Delegate from Virginia to the Continental Congress.

Shortly after Congress had met, the chair, which had been occupied heretofore, by Mr. Harrison's brother-in-law, Peyton Randolph, became vacant. Congress was divided in the choice of his successor between Mr. Harrison and the patriotic John Hancock. Mr. Harrison gave way to Mr. Hancock, and when the latter, through distrust in his experience, in a situation so trying, for a moment hesitated to take the chair, Mr. Harrison with practical good humour, "seized the modest candidate in his athletic arms, and placed him in the Presidential Chair," then turning round to the members, he exclaimed, "we will show Mother Britain now what we care for her, by making a MASSACHUSETTS-MAN our President," whom <sup>she</sup> was excluded from PARDON BY A PUBLIC PROCLAMATION."

On the fourth June of this year, Mr. Harrison was appointed on a Committee to place America in a state of defence; and, after a month's deliberation, the Committee made a report, which formed the basis of the present Militia System of the United States.

In September of this year, he was one of a Committee, who, in conjunction with the immortal WASHINGTON, arranged a plan for the future support of the Army.

He was the Chairman of the Committee, through whose agency the gallant LAFAYETTE and his companions were induced to enter into the War; and shortly after, he was appointed a member of the Board of War.

On the tenth June, 1776, Harrison called up the Resolutions by which the Colonies were declared INDEPENDENT, and which authorised a DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, to be prepared; and on the ever memorable fourth of July, 1776, he reported that instrument (our present glorious Declaration of Independence,) as having received the approbation of Congress. His NAME WILL BE FOUND AFFIXED TO IT AMONG THOSE OF THE ORIGIN DELEGATES FROM VIRGINIA.

A curious Anecdote is on record, beautifully illustrative of the cheerful temper of the man, whom we thus find identified with every turn in the fortunes of his country. "Eldridge Gerry, a Delegate from Massachusetts, as slender and spare as Mr. Harrison was vigorous and portly, stood beside him (H.) whilst signing the Declaration. Harrison turned round to him with a smile as he raised his hand from the Paper and said "when the hanging scene comes to be exhibited, I shall have all the advantage of these parts."

"over you. It will be over with me in a minute, but you will be kicking in the air, half an hour after I am gone."

Mr. Harrison continued in Congress until the year 1778, when he retired, and afterwards filled some of the most important offices in his native state. In the year 1782, on the resignation of Mr. Nelson, he was elected Governor of Virginia, and was afterwards re-elected until he became constitutionally ineligible. He continued to serve his country until the year 1791. This year he was unanimously elected to the Legislature, the day following he died, full of years and full of honour.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was born in the year 1773.\* His youth was passed amid the scenes and patriots of our glorious revolution; and it was then and there that he imbued that devotion to freedom and his country which has since ranked his name among the most illustrious of America's champions. His father died before he had attained his 17th year, leaving him no inheritance but an untried name and a virtuous example. Whilst he has imitated the latter, he has added additional lustre to the former.

The care of his education was committed to the illustrious Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, and one of his father's most intimate friends. Of the patriots of '76, no one (Washington alone excepted) made sacrifices so great, or effected so much for his country. He led our famished soldiers out of his private purse; and at the darkest era of the contest, saved the cause of liberty from impending destruction. Such was the patriotic sage who formed the mind of Harrison. From him he received that love of liberty, that courage, devotion and patriotism which ever characterized him. Under the guardianship of the illustrious Morris, Harrison commenced the study of medicine, which he prosecuted until satisfied at his nineteenth year. At this early period, in life with a disinterested and ardent devotion, for which history has few parallels, he left his native land, abandoned the peaceful walks of science, and cast his fortune with the Army of his Country—at that time warmly engaged in defence, on the frontier from the invasion of the Indians.

His wishes were opposed, not only by Mr. Morris, but by his other friends; and finding it in vain to solicit their interposition, and resolved to devote his life to the cause of his bleeding country, he *expatriated* himself to the IMMORTAL WASHINGTON. "The father of his country, being a young Harrison the germ of future greatness, complied with his request, and in his nineteenth year, *enlisted* <sup>as</sup> *an* *Artillery* <sup>in</sup> *the* *Army* <sup>of</sup> *the* *United* *States* *Army*. Immediately on receiving his Commission, he repaired to the west, and joined the Army shortly after the defeat of the gallant but ill-starred St. Clair.

If were folly and injustice, to imagine that this transition from the enjoy

\* See Hall's "Memoir of the public Services of William Henry Harrison," these parts.





ment of the comforts and luxuries of life to a winter's campaign, on the Western frontier, against a savage foe, was accomplished without great sacrifice of ease, and jeopardy of life itself. He had been accustomed to live amidst the most refined society—his only employment had been the pursuit of knowledge. He abandoned the former for the rude fare of a frontier camp; and exchanged his books for the sword.

No period of our history has been more glorious than that, in which Harrison joined the Army. The British in defiance of the Treaty of Peace, still held possession of some of our most important frontier posts. Among others, Detroit, Niagara and Mackinaw were still in their hands. From these, the agents of the British Government supplied the hostile Indians along our border with the munitions of war, and continually stirred them up to the massacre of the defenseless white population. There appeared to be no security but in the rifle. The hatchet was unburied, and the calumet of peace extinguished. The population of the west, scattered over an immense extent of country, which rendered intercourse difficult, and mutual aid impossible, fell, one by one, bleeding victims to savage ferocity. Things had remained in this state, with little intermission, since the treaty of peace.

At the period spoken of, the contest had assumed an aspect of appalling importance. The various savage tribes had consolidated their forces, under the justly renowned Little Turtle, into a confederacy so formidable as to call forth the utmost energies of the government, to protect the frontier inhabitants from indiscriminate slaughter. The spirit of the hardy yeomen of the west, prompt at every call, and equal to every danger, began to shrink beneath continued defeat. To die by the tomahawk or scalping knife, had been the lot of all who had gone forth: no wonder then that the hardiest avoided a war in which victory brought no laurels, and defeat could be accompanied by death, prolonged by all the ingenuity of savage tortures.

Such was the field into which young Harrison entered at nineteen years of age, in obedience to the dictates of patriotic duty—we say patriotic duty, for on no other ground can we solve the problem, presented by the change which he made.

They who served on the frontier, fought for their homes;—to protect their families whilst living, or avenge them when dead. They who commanded had already acquired laurels in the field, which were to be perpetuated or blotted by the conflict. Harrison had neither family nor possessions on the frontier. He had no laurels to guard. Did he seek wealth? The wilderness has seldom offered it to the soldier. *Paine?* A juvenile subaltern's portion is small indeed, and held by a precarious tenure. *Rose?* The home and friends he had left were a paradise to the camp of *Anglaise*. *Safety?* It has never been found beneath the reeking tomahawk and scalping knife of a merciless foe. For him at least, the war was one against hope: a bosom friend with less patriotism had never entered it. The spirit

which commanded this sacrifice on the altar of his country's good, *will be found to pervade his whole life*. He has never been betrayed into selfishness nor seduced into weakness.

The crisis to which we have alluded was one worthy the sagacity of the great FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY. In his choice of a commander whose genius should master these difficulties, he balanced, for a while, between George Rogers Clark and the renowned *Anthony Wayne*, and, at length, decided to appoint the latter.

Early in the year 1793, General Wayne arrived at the seat of war, and assumed the command. The army was, at this time, alike destitute of confidence in themselves, skill in the use of their weapons, and knowledge of their foe. He revived their confidence, drilled them in rifle shooting, and instructed them in the artifices of the enemy.

Negotiations failing, he had recourse to military operations; and, on the twenty-third December, a small detachment of infantry and artillery were ordered to repossess themselves of the field of battle of fourth November, '93, the scene of St. Clair's defeat. After a sharp conflict, it was done; and in a general order issued, after the battle, the gallant Wayne remonstringly *reproached his troops* with *THANKS TO LIEUT. HARRISON*, for the COURAGE and CONDUCT manifested by him during the battle. If any thing could inflame the passions of a young soldier, it must be such a notice, by such an officer, as the patriotic and chivalrous Wayne.

This action in which Harrison *bore so distinguished a part*, turned the tide of war against the foe. In the July following Wayne moved into the heart of the Indian country, and took up a position at Grand Chaisie. The Little Turtle here urged his red brethren to accept of the terms offered by General Wayne. They however rejected them and the armies immediately joined battle. A bloody conflict ensued. Harrison, who, notwithstanding his youth, was, on account of his commanding and chivalrous courage chosen by the sagacious Wayne,† as his aid-de-camp, was by turns in every part of the field—and such was his bravery, that *the commander in his general orders a second time thanked him for having rendered the most essential service, by communicating his orders in every direction*, and by his CONDUCT AND BRAVERY ENCOURAGING THE TROOPS TO PRESS FOR VICTORY.‡ Had not his whole career—a career marked with uniform success, and abounding in instances of unexampled heroism, attested the energy and dauntless intrepidity of Harrison's character, such testimony would, of itself, be conclusive.

Thus do we find Harrison, a second time, the theme of eulogy with a commander, who rarely praised at all, and never but where it was deserved. He had hardly arrived at the age of twenty-one years, but

\* Hall's Memoir, page 87.

† Hall's Memoir, page 46, Oldfield.



whilst yet a boy, had done deeds of daring, and earned, with his sword, a distinction which few attain throughout a life time. By the sequel, we will find, that the laurels thus acquired were never suffered to fade.

The fruits of this victory, so decisive in its character, was the conclusion of a *treaty of peace* with all the hostile Indians, on the first of January, 1795, on such terms as our victorious Commander dictated. The savages had learned the power of our government to punish; they had also been taught the inability of Great Britain to protect them.

On the conclusion of this treaty, Harrison, now promoted to the rank of Captain, by the sagacious Wayne, was entrusted with the command of Fort Washington, a post of much importance, and in charge of which he remained until the death of General Wayne.\*

\* Hall's Memoir, page 51.

## CHAPTER II.

Harrison resigns his Commission—Is appointed by Washington Secretary of the North Western Territory—His well earned popularity—Is elected Delegate to Congress at the early age of twenty-five—His patriotic course in dividing the public lands—Important results of that measure—Gratitude of the West—The people apply for his appointment as Governor of the North Western Territory—His decline from patriotic motives—Is appointed Governor of Indiana—Unhallowed power of the office—One exceptionally exercised by Harrison—Illustration of his republican policy—Treaties with the Indians—Tecumseh and the Prophet—Council at Vincennes—Notice of Tecumseh—Decision and gallantry of Harrison.

Anthony Wayne, died in the year, 1797. Immediately after this event, there being no prospect of further hostilities, *Cyprian Harrison* left the Army. In this step he exhibited the same regard for the best interest of his country, which have ever distinguished this great and good man. He had encountered her enemies and had subdued them, and although his services, acknowledged and applauded by all, gave him the strongest claim on her for support, and fully justified his retaining a situation under her, equal to his maintenance, yet he refused to occupy that station one hour after it had become a sinecure. *He was unwilling to be paid when he rendered no service*, or an inadequate one.

As a reward for his fidelity, the *notorial* *Wessingers* appointed him Secretary of the *North Western Territory*, and he became ex-officio, Lieutenant Governor of it. Let it be borne in mind, that at this period, he was only twenty-four years old. Yet, at this early age, his *spirit and energy alone* secured him a place in the confidence of that wise and virtuous man which on this day would be envied by thousands. *WASHINGTON*, the wise and reverend *WASHINGTON*, made the appointment. They who, at this day, cavil at its propriety, must first call in question the soundness of judgement or purity of heart, of the FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

In this situation, *Harrison* mingled with the people in all the varied tasks, toils and amusements which characterise frontier life. In their company he wielded the axe; with them he held the shafts of the plough; or scattered the seed over the bosom of the virgin soil; with them he shouldered his rifle to expel the howling panther, or to guard them against;

\* Hall's Memoir, page 56.



the subtle Indian. This farmer, the trader, and the hunter wore his companions. In the school of experience, he learned their wants; in the same school, they had been taught to look to him for relief. His political economy was drawn from the book of nature itself.

In this way, he became the favourite of the people, and in the ensuing year, when the Territory was admitted to send a Delegate to Congress, he was the first man to fill that office, though only twenty-five years old.\* He had just arrived at that age, when, by the Constitution, he was able to hold a seat in that body. He was, without doubt, the youngest man in Congress, yet we shall shortly see him grappling with the most experienced and able, without disadvantage.

The domestic condition of the settlers of the West, was peculiarly distressing, owing to the abuses which had crept into the mode of disposing of the Public Lands.

These abuses were two-fold. First, the disposal of land in tracts of not less than 4000 acres; and secondly, the granting large tracts of the best land to individuals or companies.

The effect of these measures was to exclude the needy settler from the benefits offered by the sale of land. In general, they were poor, and unable to buy such quantities. The wealthy speculator had it in his power to demand for them what price he chose. There was left to the settler no alternative but compliance. Thus, those who had conquered the forest, and subdued the savage, who had purchased the soil with their blood, and witnessed its fertilization by the bodies of their compatriots, friends or relations, as a reward for their sacrifices and sufferings, were delivered to the TENDER MERCIES of a heartless speculator, whose only advantage was the possession of wealth which he was either unable or unwilling to defend.

Shortly after taking his seat, CAPTAIN HARRISON directed his attention to this subject. He moved "for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the existing mode of selling the public lands," and was himself placed at the head of that committee. In due time, he introduced a bill regulating the sale of the public domain. By this bill, the size of the tracts were reduced to sections of six hundred and forty acres, and these were subdivided into half and quarter sections.

To speak of the influence of this measure on the people of the west and on the government is useless. The FARMER instead of being the tenant of a wealthy LANDLORD, tolling for his benefit and liable to be dispossessed at his pleasure, became the independent owner of the soil and transmitted it to his offspring. Emigrants poured into the west, the population expanded, the forest gave place to smiling cultivated fields; and the great valley of the Mississippi, instead of being the haunt of the savage, has (THANKS TO HARRISON!) become the

abode of millions of men, PROSPEROUS, HAPPY, FREE and INDEPENDENT. The government has sold land to the amount of millions, which, under the old system, it would have cost her millions to defend. Her debts are paid; her treasury is overflowing; and, by a recent act of Congress, every state in the union, may reap the advantages of this WISE FORESIGHT of

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

It may appear strange, that such a measure should have been opposed. It was opposed by the eloquent Lee, of Virginia, who brought to any cause he espoused, as great a weight of character, as great a fund of knowledge, and as brilliant talents as any man who held a seat on the floor of Congress. HARRISON, however, by his eloquence, and practical knowledge of the wants of the people, bore down all opposition.

The success of Harrison was viewed with enthusiasm in the West. The people petitioned for his appointment as Governor of the North Western Territory. To this, however, Harrison himself offered the only objection. He refused to accept the office out of respect to the aged St. Clair, who will hold it. A nobler instance of disinterestedness is seldom recorded. HARRISON is not the man to deprive a veteran soldier of his honors. He could not pluck one leaf from the wreath that adorned St. Clair's brow to place it on his own.

In the next year, Indiana was struck off into a separate government, and the office of Governor was instantly conferred on HARRISON.\* We have now traced his career from the hour, when he entered into the service of his country under Washington, up to the time of his appointment as Governor of INDIANA. It will be our duty to present the reader with a delineation equally rapid of his conduct and services in this capacity.

We have hitherto found him vigilant and brave in the field—faithful and wise in council: still the querulous may say, that, in the former, he acted under the orders of his superiors; that in the latter his course might have been controlled by his associates.

As Governor of Indiana, his situation was perfectly independent. Whilst he held it, he was invested with immense powers—greater perhaps than had ever before been entrusted in the hands of one man under our government, excepting only Washington during the Revolutionary war. In the exercise of most of these powers, he was, in fact, responsible only to God and his conscience. We will briefly state what these powers were, and how they were exercised.

The Territory thus committed to his charge, embraced the entire Territorial possessions of the United States in the West. Ohio had been circum-

\* "I nominate William Henry Harrison to be Governor of the Indian Territory, from the 13th day of May next, when his present commission as Governor will expire."

Signed,  
THOMAS JEFFERSON,  
Executive Journal of the United States Senate, page 41.

\* Hall's Memoir, page 53.



scribed by definite limits. The lands now comprising Indiana, (state) Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, and Louisiana Territory, were under his control. He was invested, in company with the Judges, with full legislative powers. He had the appointment of all civil officers within the Territory, and all military officers inferior to a General.

He was commander in chief of the Militia.

He possessed the absolute and uncontrolled power of pardoning all offences.

He was *Ex-officio* Superintendent of Indian affairs, and was appointed by THE WISE AND VIRTUOUS THOMAS JEFFERSON, sole Commissioner of treaties with the Indians.\* He had the power of confirming at his option, the titles to all grants of land. In fact, his signature constituted a title to the lands of the Territory, without revision or inquiry from any quarter whatever.

These are the powers with which he was invested—powers which are not surpassed, if equalled, by those confided to any other individual, since the organization of our government.

Let us inquire how they were exercised.

They remained in his hands from 1801 until 1805—from his 25th to his 39th year of age) during which time he administered the affairs of the Territory with so much wisdom, justice, and disinterestedness, that a vigilant and keen sighted opposition has been unable to point out a single act of wrong or abuse, of any kind, whatever.

The power of granting titles to land was one peculiarly liable to abuse. A dexterous, selfish man, would have converted it into the instrument of amassing thousands—perhaps millions, for himself and his family, and then defied, as he could have done, all inquiry. Harrison, on the contrary, was as poor on the day he left the Territory, as he was when he entered it. As a *disciple of the school of Jefferson*, he could not, like some who claim popular favor, make his public situation subserve the purpose of private gain; as an officer he could not prostitute his power; as a patriot he could not sacrifice his country's good on the altar of an unallowed cupidity. At the time of our writing, he is *eating the bread of industry* on the banks of the Ohio, with no solace save that of a heart strong and cheerful, in the consciousness of UNYIELDING HONESTY.

“I nominate William Henry Harrison of Indiana, to be a commissioner to enter into any treaty, or treaties which may be necessary, with any Indian tribes, north-west of the Ohio, and within the territory of the United States, on the subject of the boundary, or lands.”

*Signed.*

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The message containing these nominations was transmitted to the Senate of the United States, on the 3d day of February, 1803—read on the 4th, and on the 8th, taken up for consideration, when the two nominations of William Henry Harrison, above recited, received the unanimous sanction of that honorable body.

Had he been avaricious or ambitious, he also might have ridden in his coach and four, covering with the dust of the highway, and spattering with the slaver of his steeds, his less fortunate, democratic brethren. He also might have purchased, from the corrupt, with gold, those *plaudits* which the demagogue cannot wring from the admiration of the honest. He also might have bowed or knelt in a foreign court among kings and dukes, been greeted by Lords or smiled on by ladies. But no; he preferred simple fare and laborious employment, to wealth rank and power, *when purchased at the sacrifice of his honor*. So rigid has been his honesty, that he has always refused to avail himself of his intimate knowledge of the country to speculate in lands; and to his honor be it said, he has never owned an acre of land, the title to which could be traced to himself as Governor of Indiana.

As Commissioner of treaties, he effected the most important treaties ever made! By them, FIFTY-ONE MILLIONS of the finest land ever owned by the United States, was ceded to the Government, and the aboriginal title finally extinguished. They are now worth, at least, SIXTY-THREE MILLIONS, and are far better than that much in *bars of gold*. *Who has done more?* There is NOT ONE. The wisest regulations of commerce, even effected by any one man, in point of benefit, cannot be compared to these acts of WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Through his wisdom and prudence, the West was settled. He drew around our Frontier chain of population, hardy, intelligent, brave and enterprising, which affords a better security against the incursions of the savage than would the famed iron defence of Louis XIV. His speeches and messages, as Governor, whilst they display his wisdom and forecast, furnish the most brilliant specimens of eloquence and composition.

One of the leading objects in the view of Harrison whilst Governor, was the conciliation of the Aborigines. Jealousies and heart burnings had grown out of the intercourse between the two races, differing as they did in every important characteristic and quality. The complaints of the Indians were constantly recurring. If the traders supplied them with rum, they furnished the means of destruction. If they withheld it, it was denounced as an arbitrary act, at once unjust and oppressive. The traders were denounced as cheats and liars; and the Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, as invaders of their hereditary customs. This state of irritation continued until the year 1803 and as the transactions of this period, led to the war of 1811, it may be proper to give a very brief account of them.

The plan of uniting the savage tribes, along the whole frontier against the whites, had been repeatedly tried previous to this, but had always been defeated by the wisdom of Harrison. Tecumseh and the Prophet, who were brothers, and Chiefs of the Shawnee tribe, renewed the attempt with better prospect, of success. TECUMSEH was a savage of the first order. He was as wary and sagacious in council, as he was bold and impetuous in



the execution of his designs—and to this was added a *venosity* for command of a superior order. As an orator, he was fluent in expression, subtle in allusion, and acute in reasoning. He was accurately informed of the grievances and complaints of every tribe, and used them with the utmost skill.

The Prophet was remarkable for nothing but a low cunning which sometimes distinguishes the savage character. He was not renowned in arms nor had he accomplished any feats as a hunter. His name would have passed into oblivion, but for the lofty and daring character of his brother. Tecumseh found it necessary to subsidize the superstition of the tribes to his purpose. With this view, he affected to treat his brother as a being of a superior order; and by this artifice, succeeded completely in imposing on them.

Tecumseh advised the tribes to abstain from using the supplies furnished by the United States. This led to illicit trading, accompanied by fraud, cheating, violence and sometimes murder. Hostile incursions on the part of the Indians at length became frequent. Things remained in this state until the year 1811.

In the year 1808 Harrison concluded a treaty with the Delawares, for the cession of a large tract of land on the Wabash. Tecumseh was absent when this treaty was ratified, and on his return refused to acknowledge it, alleging that the ceded lands belonged to the Shawnees. Harrison invited him to a council at Vincennes, assuring him, that if his title, when exhibited should be found valid, it would be respected.

Harrison having no confidence in the savage, restricted the number of his followers to thirty. He came attended by four hundred. The meeting took place in front of the Governor's house. Tecumseh exposed his claims, to which Harrison replied. The latter had not yet finished, when Tecumseh sprang on his feet, seized his war club, and calling on his forces, rushed upon the Governor. Harrison met him with an undaunted front, and calling on his friends to be on their guard, he coolly drew his sword and prepared for the onset. The savage quailed beneath his prompt and steadfast valour. He had expected an easy victim; but he found Harrison, although surrounded and surprised as immovable as the earth on which he stood, equally removed from rash violence and covering fear. The moral influence of Harrison's position subdues this son of the woods; and when the Governor reproached him for his treachery, he apologised. He however repeated his resolution not to suffer the whites to occupy the tract, and the other tribes concurring with him, the parties separated.

### CHAPTER III.

Combination of hostile Indians on the Western Frontier—Insidious policy of Great Britain—Approach of War—Harrison prepares for the contest—Embodies a force and marshals into the Indian Territory—Reaches the Prophet's town—Anecdote of Gen. Harrison—BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE—Heroism of Harrison in the Battle—Testimonials of popular gratitude—Testimony of the illustrious Madison, &c.—Effects of the victory of Tippecanoe—Difficulties between England and the United States.

In the year 1811, it became obvious that the cloud of war which had so long darkened our Western Frontier, must shortly burst, and pour its contents of fury and desolation upon the unprotected habitations of the settlers. The insidious enmity of the Indians, which had been kept alive and nourished so long by the sinister policy of England, began to assume a bolder aspect. Their murmurs were changed into threats; their complaints to vows of vengeful retribution. Great Britain also had strengthened the posts which she had retained in her possession, contrary to all good faith, and had placed Canada in a state of defence. Her outrages upon our commerce had become such as a brave nation could no longer palliate or excuse. The patience of the American people, at length became exhausted; and throughout her wide domain, the DEMOCRACY of the land demanded a vindication of their rights, and a redress of their wrongs. The prospect of war was viewed with enthusiasm in the West.

Governor Harrison, always foremost in the hour of his country's danger, applied to President Madison, for authority to prepare the Frontier for the approaching contest.

An armed force was instantly supplied him from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, but he was ordered "*to abstain from hostilities, of any kind whatever, and to any degree, not indispensably required.*"

A more disadvantageous and trying position, than that which Harrison occupied, cannot well be conceived. Before him, was arrayed his enemy in open preparation for battle; behind him, lay a defenceless population, from which all the able bodied men had been drafted, or had volunteered to form the army: on the right and left, stretched the forest, which it was impossible to guard, and through which the foe could, at any moment, fall back upon the unprotected settlers in the rear, and carry the torch and knife to the home



and threats of every family. General Harrison had not the power to attack. Until blood had stained the tomahawk, or the victim had writhed beneath the torture, he could not even unsheathe his sword. Every advantage was conferred upon the enemy. In the defile of the mountain, on the plain, by night or by day, in detachments, or *en masse*, he might come on, when, where and as he chose.

The genius of Harrison—"THE MAN WHO NEVER LOST A BATTLE," who has never yielded to a foreign foe, was equal to this crisis; and by a master-stroke of policy, he conquered every disadvantage and moved down upon the Prophet's town, where all the hostile Indians were assembled. We will not accompany him on his dreary march through the wilderness, nor recount the mishaps and adventures which befel him. Suffice it to say that on the 5th of November, he discovered the Prophet's town, about five miles in advance of him.

Harrison now used every precaution to guard against an attack. Inter-preters were sent to the enemy who refused to hear them. At length, Capt. Dubois was sent forward with a flag, but the Indians, in defiance of his sacred character, made an unsuccessful effort to cut him off from the army. Harrison on learning this, resolved to treat them as enemies, considering this act of aggression a sufficient justification under his orders. He was preparing for an attack on them, when he was met by three chiefs, who came to avow on the Indian's behalf, a disposition for peace. A suspension of hostilities till next day was agreed upon, and Harrison moved his army above the town, and with his usual judgment, selected an encampment possessing every advantage of position, together with a full supply of wood and water for the men.

It was during this night, that the treacherous savages held a council, and, in open violation of their compact, resolved to attack the camp of Harrison before the break of day.

Before proceeding to a description of the celebrated battle which followed this resolution, we will pause to relate an incident which occurred this night, and which fully illustrates the humanity and benevolence of Harrison's heart. Let those, if any there be, who affect to dread his military character, read this and reflect.

Bon, a negro who belonged to the camp, deserted and went over to the Indians, and entered into a conspiracy to assassinate Governor Harrison, at the time the savages commenced their attack. Being apprehended whilst lurking about the Governor's marker, waiting an opportunity to accomplish this foul deed, he was tried by a court martial, and sentenced to be shot. The execution of this sentence was delayed for a short time, in consequence of the troops being engaged in fortifying the camp. In the mean time, the negro was put into Indian stocks—that is a log split open, notches cut in it to fit the culprit's legs, the upper piece was then laid on, and the whole firmly staked into the ground. The Governor interposed, and pardoned the

culprit. The reason assigned by the Governor for his clemency, was as follows:—"The fact was that I began to pity him, and could not screw myself up to the point of giving the fatal order. If he had been out of my sight, he would have been executed. The poor wretch lay confined before my fire, his face receiving the rain that occasionally fell, and his eyes constantly turned upon me as if imploring mercy. I could not withstand the appeal, and I determined to give him another chance for his life." This act of magnanimous lenity displays, in bright colours, the goodness of Harrison's heart, and proves that no elevation of rank can cause him to forget the feelings of his fellow-men—resentment, if it dwelt in his bosom, yielded to the pleading of mercy.

After the treaty for a suspension of hostilities with the savages, the men busied themselves in fortifying the camp. This done, they retired to rest. Throughout the multitude who had lately been so active and busy, not a sound was heard, save that of the sentinel as he paced his lonely round. The iron was overcast with clouds, and an occasional dropping of rain denoted an approaching convulsion of the elements. All was as silent as the grave—when a single shot, was heard, and immediately the dreadful war-hoop arose in the quarter whence it proceeded.

Harrison who had already risen, mounted the first horse he could procure, and rode directly to the point of attack. The guard had already been driven in by the savages, but Harrison, with undaunted heroism, rallied his men, received the foe at the point of the bayonet, and drove them back. In a short time, the troops were marshalled in order of battle, and a most deadly conflict raged until the dawn of day. Major Davis fell mortally wounded, as did also Col. Isaac White. The savages fought with all the fury of religious fanaticism, but every effort against our troops was promptly repulsed. At length, the Governor succeeded in breaking the enemies left wing, and immediately after, with Cook and Larabee's parties, he charged their right, and put their main body to flight, and thus terminated the battle.

Their battle at Tippecanoe, was one of the most important conflicts which ever occurred between the Indians and the whites. The forces on either side were nearly equal. The Indians however chose the time, place and mode of attack; and yet notwithstanding these advantages and attempted surprise, they were totally routed by the gallantry and courage of Governor Harrison.

"The high sense entertained by the government of the importance of this victory, is emphatically expressed in a message from the President to Congress, dated December 18, 1811. 'While it is deeply to be lamented, says Mr. Madison, 'that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action which took place on the 9th inst., Congress will see with satisfaction the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of troops



engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander, on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valour and discipline."

Resolutions were also passed by the Legislatures of Indiana and Kentucky of a similar purport. The following is the Resolution of the latter body.

"Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians on the Wabash, Governor William Henry Harrison has, in the opinion of this legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general, and that for his cool, deliberate skillful, and gallant conduct, in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he deserves the warmest thanks of the nation."

The thanks thus conferred, were well merited, as nothing could exceed the daring with which he exposed his person, at those points where the battle raged most hotly.

In some instances, this exposure was so great as to demand the interference of his officers—a circumstance which has happened to no other officer of whom we have ever read, except Washington at Long Island. The following instance is given by McAfee. In speaking of his services during the combat, he says:

"The reinforcements drawn occasionally from the points most secure, were conducted by himself and formed on the spot, where their services were most wanted. The officers and men who believed that their ultimate success depended on his safety, warmly remonstrated against his so constantly exposing himself. Upon one occasion, as he was approaching an angle of the line, against which the Indians were advancing with horrible yells, Lieutenant Emerson of the Dragoons, seized the bridle of his horse, and earnestly entreated that he would not go there; but the Governor putting spurs to his horse, pushed on to the point of attack, where the enemy were received with firmness and driven back."

The effect of the victory of Tippecanoe, was the immediate dispersion of the hostile bands of barbarians, who had heretofore hung on the Western frontier. The various tribes denounced Tecumseh, and disclaimed all connection with him, and shortly afterwards sent\* eighty deputies to Governor Harrison, to treat for peace, on the terms of total submission. Far different would have been the scene had the Prophet triumphed—towns would have been sacked, hamlets burned, and the peaceful tenement of the settler offered up a sacrifice to savage fury.

During the time the events which we have just related were transpiring,

\* These deputies promised to deliver the Prophet into the hands of the United States as soon as they could catch him, and went away, resolved as McAfee remarks, "not to commit hostilities again, until a favourable opportunity offered." Tecumseh appeared at Fort Wayne during the following winter, (1811-12,) and by his complaints against General Harrison, bore an unwilling but sincere testimony to his greatness. He then demanded amanuensis, which the Commandant refusing, he threatened to "go to his British father" for it—after spending a few moments, in stony silence, he uttered the war-whoop and disappeared in the forest.

a crisis had arisen in the national intercourse between Great Britain and the United States. We have elsewhere stated that she still continued to hold some of the most important fortresses on the frontier; that she had placed the Canadas in such a situation as to use them for offensive or defensive operations as circumstances might require; she had also committed unprovoked depredations on our commerce. The hour for retribution was now fast approaching. The spirit of the people had been aroused, and nothing short of an open declaration of war could allay it. Of the circumstances which led to the Declaration of War, Tecumseh was doubtlessly apprized. Accordingly we find that he instantly renewed those intrigues among the Indians for which he had been so celebrated. The result was, that their minds at all times fickle, became again influenced with a sanguinary desire for slaughter. The aid which had been afforded, and the alliance which was now tendered to them, by their British brethren, settled the wavering, and determined the doubtful; and we find them, in the war which followed, at all times companions with the latter in arms, and scarcely excelling them in their bloody vengeance.



\* Brevet Commission of Major General.\* Shortly afterwards he marched for the seat of the war, at the head of 7000 Kentuckians, as gallant and chivalric a band, as ever rallied beneath the banner of freedom. It was composed of men of the greatest intelligence and influence in the state. The hardy yeomen marched shoulder to shoulder with the lawyer who had aided in the administration of justice, or the physician whose skill had relieved the diseases of his children. Even the sacred ministers of God, closed the volume of gospel news, extinguished the fire on the altar of his religion, and bidding the army "God speed," swept on to meet the foe. Such were the men who had enrolled themselves beneath the flag of HARRISON.

Harrison had not proceeded far in his march, when he was informed that Winchester had been appointed to the command of the Kentucky troops. This information was received with murmurs of indignation throughout the army. The revolutionary veteran Shelby immediately wrote to the Secretary of War, remonstrating against any change by which Harrison should be superseded, as destructive of the objects of the campaign. *Harrison however yielding up his own elevation, a sacrifice to his country's good, submitted to the dictate of authority, and pressed forward, with haste, to the relief of Fort Wayne, which had been for ten days invested by the Indians.*

The news of his approach had gone before him, and on his arrival, the savages dispersed without hazarding a battle. Such indeed was his reputation for courage and prudence, that a writer of that day observes, "HARRISON'S PRESENCE INSPIRES EVERY PERSON WITH COURAGE, AND MAKES EVEN COWARDS BRAVE." This reputation alone spared the effusion of human blood at Fort Wayne. Shortly after Harrison arrived at Fort Wayne, General Winchester came to take command of the troops. Loud murmurs ran through the camp, and some openly refused to submit to the change. So great was the discontent, that nothing short of Harrison's disinterested and magnanimous efforts, could reconcile them to the change; they finally submitted but under a promise that Harrison should be restored to them as soon as the War Department could be heard from.

On retiring from the army, General Harrison hastened homeward to resume his duties as Governor of Indiana. He had proceeded part of the way when he received a communication from the Secretary of War of which the following is an extract.

\* A caucus was called on the subject of the appointment. At this caucus composed of General Shelby, the Honorable Henry Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives in Congress, the Honorable Thomas Todd, Judge of the Federal Court, &c., &c., it was unanimously resolved to give Harrison a Brevet Commission of Major General in the Kentucky Militia, and authorize him to take command. The appointment received the general approbation of the people, and was hailed by the troops of Cincinnati with the most enthusiastic joy." *McAfee's History of the War, page 108.*

General Harrison appointed R. M. Johnson, Esq. one of his aids. *Page 108.*

#### CHAPTER IV.

**D**eclaration of War—Treason of Hull—Disastrous state of the contest—Harrison appointed to the command of the Kentucky forces—Arrival of Harrison at Fort Wayne—Indian retire at his approach—Commissioned Major General by Madison—Great powers conferred on him—Commences vigorous operations—Massacre of River Raisin—Occasioned by a disobedience of Harrison's orders—renewed efforts of defense—the army encamped at Fort Meigs—investment of Fort Meigs by the British and Indian—Gallant defense of Harrison—admirable and successful military strategem—the enemy repelled.

War against Great Britain was declared on the 18th June, 1812. The interval between the battle of Tippecanoe and the declaration of war was spent by Governor Harrison in putting the frontier in a state of defence. Interviews with him were solicited by the governors of most of the Western States, in which measures were projected for enrolling and equipping troops, and preparing the munitions of war for the approaching shock. It was obvious that the first blow would fall on the west, but with a chivalry truly characteristic, it neither marred nor faltered, but equipped for the field. We will not pause to narrate the disasters of the campaign under Hull. Chingoo and Macinaw were taken by the enemy. Detroit shortly after fell by treason, and throughout the whole frontier, the mortification of defeat was rendered more poignant by the prospect of a wily spread savage slaughter. Shortly before the fall of Detroit, letters were received from the army, stating their total want of confidence in the capacity and integrity of Hull. [See McAfee's History of the War, p. 81 and 85.] Letter from the late Secretary of War Cuss. [ "These letters," says McAfee, "also declined it to be the common wish of the army that GOVERNOR HARRISON SHOULD ACCOMPANY THE EXPECTED REINFORCEMENT."] Harrison was doubtlessly the most capable, as well as the most popular General in the West. His courage and daring at Tippecanoe had given him a high place in the affections of the people. One difficulty presented itself, he was not a citizen of Kentucky, which was indispensable by the laws of the state, before he could take command of its forces.

"The people being clamorous for his appointment, Governor Scott gave him



## WAR DEPARTMENT, September 17, 1812.

“ The President is pleased to assign to you the command of the north-western army, which in addition to the regular troops and rangers in that quarter, will consist of the volunteers and militia of Kentucky, Ohio, and three thousand from Virginia and Pennsylvania, making your whole force ten thousand men.”

After having stated the objects of the campaign, he adds :

“ WITH THESE OBJECTS IN VIEW, YOU WILL COMMAND SUCH MEANS AS MAY BE PRACTICABLE, EXERCISE YOUR OWN DISCRETION, AND ACT IN ALL CASES, ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN JUDGMENT.”

Very respectfully, &c.

W. EUSTIS.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

The power thus conferred on General Harrison was greater than had ever been exercised by any commander, excepting only Washington and Greene. It was equalled only by that with which he had exercised in a civil capacity with so much credit to himself and advantage to the government.

This extensive command was conferred by JAMES MADISON, a democrat of the Jefferson school, and one of the purest patriots who ever breathed. Nor was it made without a full knowledge of the merits of the man. Mr. Madison entered upon the duties of Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson, in the year 1801, shortly after Harrison had been appointed Governor of Indiana.

They had served together throughout the whole of Jefferson’s administration, and the Secretary of State must have known how the duties of Governor of Indiana had been discharged. Nothing but an exalted sense of Harrison’s worth and abilities could have induced the appointment. We will only add that he remained in office under Mr. Madison, till the expiration of his term of service. Immediately on receiving this appointment, General Harrison proceeded at once to take command of the army, which he found in a state of almost open rebellion. His arrival, which occurred at night, was unknown to the army. Early in the morning he had them paraded and unexpectedly presented himself before them. The effect was electrical. Every voice was raised in long and loud applause, and a general enthusiasm pervaded the camp. With characteristic happiness he seized this moment to reconcile them to their duty, and made them a patriotic and spirit stirring speech, in which he reminded them of their duties to themselves, their families and their country. Their instant return to duty proved that they were dissatisfied with

their former Commander and not the service in which they had engaged. Harrison now commenced exertions to forward supplies for the expedition against Malden. It was at this time he suggested to Government the creation of a navy on the Lakes; and to him, as the author of this measure, is to be ascribed, those victories on the Lakes, by which the fame of our gallant navy has been rendered immortal.\*

Owing to the advanced state of the season, nothing of importance was effected during this campaign. HARRISON however spent every hour of his time, in laborious preparations for the ensuing summer—in erecting Forts, creating Depots and cutting roads through the wilderness—in fine in preparing the face of the Country for active operations.

It was at this time that the massacre of the River Raisin, so memorable in the annals of blood, occurred. Winchester had been ordered by Harrison to fall back to Fort Jennings, as the latter had received information that Tecumseh was in his vicinity with an overwhelming force of Indians. Instead of obeying this order, he sent Col. Lewis with 600 men forward to the River Raisin, to protect the farms. Lewis exceeded his orders and pushed forward to Frenchtown only 18 miles from Malden. He there attacked and routed the combined British and Indian force, and with the greatest gallantry, drove them two miles at the point of the bayonet. Had he now retired, all would have been well; but he resolved to hold Frenchtown, and of this resolution Winchester unfortunately approved. The British hearing of the defeat of their men, sent down large reinforcements from Malden—Winchester also came up to the aid of Lewis. The British commenced a furious assault by which Winchesters’ line was broken and scattered—The Indians taking advantage of this, gained the flank, overpowered the remaining forces, and commenced a most horrible butchery. One hundred and twenty prisoners were slaughtered in one spot. Graves who commanded the remaining division of the army surrendered on Proctor’s pledge of security for himself and men. A few men were marched to Malden. The remainder were delivered over to the tender mercies of the remorseless savages, and were all butchered, with the knowledge and approbation of Proctor. For this courageous and humane act Proctor was promoted. (See McAfee, Niles Register, and the Journals of the day for particulars.)

We shall not more than allude to the scene of distress which was presented in Kentucky. The pride of Kentucky fell in that massacre, and so wide spread was the woe, that there was scarcely a family in the state, that did not feel it.

\* The following extract of a letter from the immortal Perry to GENERAL HARRISON, will show that while our country is indebted to Harrison for its most brilliant victories on land, it owes him an eternal debt of gratitude for its naval glory.

“ The very great assistance in the action of the tenth, derived from those men, you were pleased to send on board the squadron, render it a duty to return you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement. IN FACT, SIR, I MAY SAY WITHOUT THOSE MEN THE VICTORY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.”

Niles’ Register, vol. 5, page 20.

\* McAfee.



not modern a butchered friend or relative. The temper of the American people seldom yields long to useless lamentation; grief was succeeded by indignation, and the very day after that on which the news of this inhuman slaughter was received at Frankfort, the Governor signed a bill to raise 3000 volunteers for the Army. The Legislature proposed a resolution requesting the Executive (Gov. Shelby) to take command of the forces of the state in person, whenever he should deem it necessary. Instead of fabricating the weeds of mourning, the mothers and sisters of the slain, shaped out the tents and wove together the stars and stripes, for this new band of patriot warriors.

Immediately on receiving news of the nature and extent of the overthrow at the River Raisin, a council of war was called at Head Quarters, the result of which was a determination to abandon the Rapids and fall back to Portage River. This was executed on the following day. Measures were now taken for the security of the troops during the winter. The encampment was strongly fortified, and provided with Block houses, in such a manner as to protect them against both the enemy and the elements. This fortification has ever since been called Fort Meiggs.

Immediately after these precautions had been consummated, Gen. Harrison hastened to Cincinnati to make preparations for the ensuing campaign, but was instantly recalled to camp by the news that the enemy had invested Fort Meiggs. He reached it on the 12th April, and found it not yet besieged: 3000 men under Gen. Clay were then on their march for the fort.

On the 28th April he discovered the approach of the British, accompanied by Tecumseh and the prophet, with 600 warriors. Gen. Harrison having sent despatch to Gen. Clay, paraded the troops and addressed them in his usual strain of eloquence. The enemy appeared and commenced erecting batteries, whilst the Indians surrounded the camp. Camp Meiggs is within a short distance of the field of Wayne's conquest in 1814, a brilliant allusion to this circumstance was made by Harrison in his address to the army.

It was on this occasion that GEN. HARRISON, had resort to a measure of defiance which in its success has been rarely equalled, and is not surpassed by that of the Cotton Bales of New Orleans.

Whilst the British were busy in constructing their forts, he had moved all the tents of the army to the side of the Fort next to them, thus forming a screen to his operations within the works. Behind these tents he threw up a traverse, or bank of earth, twelve feet high, and twenty feet wide at the base, in such a manner as to form the most perfect protection to the garrison against the enemy's guns. The tents concealing the embankment, the British were unapprised of its existence. On the 30th May, the enemy's Batteries being completed, preparations were made for bombarding. The men were sent to quarters, the guns loaded, the fuses lighted, the main of the word "FIRE," above suspended the attack. At this moment Harrison gave orders to "SPRITE THE MEN'S." It was done, and Proctor for the first time learned how fruitless had been all his labour, when opposed by the superior

SAGACITY AND GENERALSHIP OF HARRISON—not a man—not a tent could he behold, nothing but a high shield of earth, and McAfee, observes, "the prospect of smacking us (*them*) out was very FAINT." Proctor, however, resolved to hear the music of his guns, and accordingly opened a heavy fire. So perfect was Harrison's defence, that although he endured this attack for two days, he lost only *one man*.

On the 3d of April, Proctor's men appeared to work unwillingly, and Harrison's troops repeatedly mounted the ramparts, and cheered them on. This was the only return they could make for their favors, as they were almost destitute of ammunition.

Gen. Wood remarks "With a plenty of ammunition, we should have been able to blow John Bull almost from the Miami. It was extremely diverting to see with what pleasure and delight, the Indians would yell, whenever in their opinion, considerable damage was done to camp by the bursting of a shell. Their hanging about camp, and occasionally pretty near, kept our lines almost constantly in a blaze of fire; for nothing can please a Kentuckian better than to get a shot at an Indian; and they must be indulged."

During the night of the 5th the approach of Gen. Clay on the river with 1200 Kentuckians was announced to Gen. Harrison. He immediately despatched Capt. Hamilton with orders to Clay, directing him to divide his Corps; send 800 men to the west side of the river, to get possession of the enemies batteries. The remainder were to land on the east side and fight their way into the fort—it was Harrison's intention, to destroy the British fort on the south side whilst Clay was cutting his way through the Indians.

The troop to whom was confided the duty of carrying the enemies batteries on the west side of the river were commanded by Dudley. By the swiftness of the current, General Clay was separated from his command. Colonel Boswell at the head of this division, landed, formed, and attacked the enemy. General Harrison observing an effort on the part of the Indians to gain his flank, resolved on a sortie from the Garrison, to relieve him and carry the batteries on that side of the river. The forces for this purpose were placed under command of Major Miller, who says McAfee "led on his command with the most determined bravery, charged upon the British, and drove them from their batteries—spiked their cannon, and took forty-one prisoners, including an officer, having completely beaten and driven back the whole force of the enemy. That force consisted of 200 British regulars, 150 Canadians, and 500 Indians, being considerably more than double the force of the brave detachment that attacked them; but our troops charged with such irresistible impetuosity that nothing could withstand them."

"In no instance during the war was there harder fighting than in this brilliant sortie. It lasted but forty-five minutes, during which 150 men were killed and wounded on our side."

In the mean time Dudley had gained the opposite shore and approached the batteries erected there. When about three hundred yards from them the



troops could not longer be restrained, but with a yell, rushed on to the attack. The enemy panic stricken abandoned the forts and fled, leaving them an easy prey in the hands of the gallant Kentuckians. "The troops under Dudley were mostly raw militia, brave, hardy and enterprising, but destitute of discipline. After taking the forts, they amused themselves with examining the defences instead of destroying them. *Harrison* observing this, repeatedly called to them to retire, and come into the fort. Unfortunately they neglected his warning, the Indians and British reinforced, returned, and in an hour their fate was decided. They nearly all fell or were taken prisoners. Death was the easier fate of the two; some of them were shot by the Indians, "as does," says Colonel Wood, "who preferred to inflict a still more cruel and savage death, selected their victims, and led them to the gateway, and there, under the eye of General Proctor, and in the presence of the whole British army, tomahawked and scalped them." This horrid work of destruction continued until the arrival of Tecumseh from the batteries. No sooner did the savage warrior behold the massacre, than he exclaimed, "Por shant! it is a disgrace to kill a defenseless prisoner;" and stopped the carnage.

After the close of the action of the 6th, Proctor formally summoned Harrison, to surrender, which request the latter declined with indignant contempt. Proctor finding Harrison unwilling to be either cajoled or beaten into submission, resolved to quit, so unaccommodating a foe; and accordingly he decamped on the 8th, leaving HARRISON in full possession of the field of battle. Harrison then repaired to Cleveland and lower Sandusky to put those places in a state of defence—and shortly after set out for the interior, having left General Clay in command of Fort Meiggs. (See 5. Notes.)

#### CHAPTER V.

Friend attack on Fort Meiggs—the enemy retreat—they assail lower Sandusky—repulsed and attacked by the Garrison—preparations for the reduction of Malden—Perry's victory—Harrison embarks his army by land for Canada, takes possession of Malden—Harrison pursues Proctor—Battle and victory of the Thames—brilliant conduct of Harrison—remarks—death of Tecumseh—testimony in favour of Harrison—Langdon Cheves—James Madison—Simon Snyder.

We have elsewhere stated that General Harrison had suggested to the Secretary of war, the construction of a fleet on the Lakes, to co-operate with the army under his command. This suggestion, like most of those of this distinguished man, being based upon practical knowledge, prevailed. Government authorized the equipment of a fleet, which had been at length accomplished by the Immortal Peary, under the command of General Harrison, whilst the latter was engaged in the operations which we have just related.

Harrison had proceeded as far in the interior as Franklinton, when the news reached him of a second attack contemplated on Fort Meiggs, by the combined British and Indian force.

He instantly repaired thither, with 300 men, and found the fort not yet invaded. Shortly after his arrival, he placed Major Croghan with 160 men at lower Sandusky, and established his head quarters at Seneca, nine miles lower down on the Sandusky river. From this place, chosen with peculiar judgment, he could either protect upper Sandusky, or cut his way into Fort Meiggs, as occasion might require. Lower Sandusky in command of Croghan, was a mere out post, and not considered worthy of much exertion. Indeed it would never have been heard of but for the heroic gallantry of the now whom Harrison, with his usual sagacity, had placed in command of it.

In the month of July, the British under Proctor and Dickson, and the "Allies," under Tecumseh, appeared before Fort Meiggs to the number of 5,000. They remained there without any active operations until the 28th, when they abandoned Meiggs and moved down by the Lake to lower Sandusky. The latter post had been declared worthless and untenable by a council of Officers, of whom The HON. LEWIS CASS, LATE SECRETARY OF WAR, WAS ONE. (Vide McAfee, page 301.) Accordingly Croghan had been ordered to set fire to it and march to head quarters, before the enemy could reach it. This order, however, was not received by



Croghan until the fort was surrounded by Indians, and retreat rendered impossible—He then addressed the following note to Harrison—

“ SIR ”

“ I have received yours of yesterday, ten o’clock, P. M. ordering me to destroy this place, and retreat, which was received too late, to be carried into execution. We have determined to maintain this place and by Heavens we can. ”

This note was written with the expectation that it would be intercepted by the enemy, and was designed to leave on them an impression of his strength. Harrison, not knowing this, regarded it as a refusal to obey and accordingly (31st July, evening) sent Col. Wells to Fort Stephenson, with a squadron of Dragoons, to supersede Croghan and send him to head quarters. When C. arrived and made this explanation, the General, pleased with the good policy which he exhibited, instantly reinstated him with orders to evacuate the Fort as soon as he safely could. The next day 30th July, 13, the enemy under Proctor landed and summoned the Post to surrender—at the same time they were humanely informed that if they did not the fort should be stormed and themselves given up to the tomahawk and scalping knife. Dickson in person accompanied the flag which bore the summons, and was met by Epsign Shipp on the part of the Garrison. Dickson begged Shipp to surrender for God’s sake, as in the event of their taking the fort, they would all be massacred. Shipp replied, “ that when the fort was taken there would be none left to massacre. At this juncture an Indian came up to Shipp and endeavoured to wrest his sword from him. Shipp drew on him and was about despatching him. Dickson interposed and restrained the savage. Croghan who had been standing on the ramparts, and had observed the insult offered to Shipp, called to him, “ Shipp come in and we’ll blow them all to hell.” Shipp went in bidding Dickson “ good bye ”—The canonading, then commenced, and in 24 hours upwards of 500 shot struck the works, though with little effect.

Croghan had but one piece of artillery, a 6 pounder, which by his order was removed to the Block house and loaded with musket balls. On the evening of the next day the enemy determined to carry the works by storm. They advanced in two columns, one led on by Lieut. Col. Short, the other by Col. Chambers, under cover of the smoke of the Fort. The men advanced until they came to the ditch where they paused. Col. Short rallied them, crying out to them to push on “ and give the damned yankees no quarters ”—The 6 pounder which had been placed at a masked embrasure in the block house, at 30 feet distance from them, now opened, pouring death and destruction among them. Of those in the ditch few escaped. A precipitate retreat commenced. The column under Col. Chambers was also routed by a severe fire from Captain Hanners’ line, and the whole fled into an adjoining wood. Lieut. Short and 25 privates were left dead in the ditch, and 26

were afterwards taken prisoners. The total loss of the enemy was 150, killed and wounded. When night came on, the wounded in the ditch suffered indescribably. Croghan conveyed them water over the Pickets and opened a ditch through the ramparts by which they were invited to enter the fort.

Let the reader compare this act of magnanimity with the conduct of Proctor at the River Raisen. In the night the combined force of the “ allies ” commenced a rapid and disorderly retreat, leaving part of their baggage and wounded behind them. For his act of gallantry on this occasion Croghan was promoted to the rank of Brevet Lieut. Colonel.\*

Shortly after the retreat of Proctor, he sent a flag with his Surgeon Dr. Banner to enquire into the condition of the wounded. After an examination of them, the Doctor expressed himself highly gratified with the tenderness and skill with which they had been treated. When introduced to Croghan he could not express his astonishment that such a post had been held in such a manner by such a boy.

On the 20th July Harrison was informed that the naval armament which had been built under Perry’s superintendence was prepared to cooperate with him, in the reduction of Malden, with a view to this he wrote to Governor Shelby of Kentucky; earnestly soliciting a body of militia not less than 400 nor more than 2,000, and requested that he would accompany them in person. Old Kentucky responded instantly to the call, and Governor

Shelby the hero of King’s mountain, took command of the forces, 1500 strong, among which were Col. Johnson’s regiment of mounted men.

On the 2d of August Perry got his fleet over the bar, at the mouth of the Harbour, and proceeded to Sandusky to receive orders from Harrison. Harrison

\* As there have been many misrepresentations on this subject it may be well to settle them now and forever by the following extract from a letter

from the gallant Croghan to a friend.

“ The measures recently adopted by him (General Harrison) so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proof of his keen penetration and able Generalship. It is true that I did not proceed immediately to execute his order to evacuate this fort, but this disobedience was not, (as some would wish to believe) the result of a fixed determination to maintain the post contrary to his most positive order ”—“ I had felt the warm attachment to him as a nob, and my confidence in him as a noble Comrade remains unshaken. ”

[Weekly Aurora, Vol. 4, p. 111.]

In a letter published in the same paper signed by LEWIS CASS, Samuel Wells and the other officers of the army, those gentlemen remark, “ on a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom and by a due regard to our own circumstances and the situation of the enemy. With a ready acquaintance beyond the mere claims of men’s military duty, we are prepared to obey a General whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation and merit and that of his Country. ”



rison commanded him to advance at once to Malden and to bring the enemy to battle, as it was apprehended the British commander was waiting for an opportunity of attacking our fleet whilst engaged in transporting the troops to Canada. Harrison confident in the result of any engagement which might take place, placed the army in a state for instant embarkation.—On the 12th Harrison in writing to Governor Shelby, observes, our fleet has undoubtedly met that of the enemy. The day before yesterday a tremendous and incessant cannonade was heard in the direction of Malden, "it lasted two hours. I am all anxiety for the event." Within half an hour after writing the above Harrison received a letter from Perry, dated on board Niagara, Sept. 20, 1813, which runs as follows:—

"Dear General,

We have met the enemy, and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and a sloop.

Yours, with great respect and esteem,

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY.

GEN. W. H. HARRISON.

We will not attempt a description of the feelings which this news excited at Sackets and lower Sandusky. McAfee remarks that it set both camps "in an uproar of tumultuous joy."

Orders were immediately given to prepare for embarkation; the troops were mustered, formed, and those in the rear traversed the swamps at the rate of 30 miles per day, until they reached head quarters on the margin of the Lake. From the 16th of September 1813 to the 24th of the same month, Harrison, had the the troops and provision all transported to the place of rendezvous, Put-in-bay, and on the 24th sailed with Commodore Perry to re-connote Malden, and immediately on his return issued orders for the embarkation of the army. Previous to this he issued an address to the army, of the most manly and spirited kind, in which he admonishes them against excesses in the hour of victory. "Remember" says he "the River Raisen, but remember it only whilst victory is suspended." The revenge of a soldier, cannot be gratified on a fallen enemy.

On the 27th the army embarked and landed in Canada, eager to encounter the enemy, but lo! no enemy could be found. Malden was in ruins; the Fort and works were a mass of moulderings ashes. The gallant and humane Hero of the River Raisen, and Fort Meigs, had modestly withdrawn, before the Hero of Tippecanoe, and our troops encamped, without opposition on the site of Malden. Harrison issued general orders for the protection of the people of Canada, in which he commanded their persons and property to be respected. This measure so characteristic of General Harrison's justice and humanity inspired the terrified and flying Canadians with confidence in the Americans.—They had felt the friendly sympathies of Proctor, and concluded that the track of the hostile Americans would be marked with ruin and desolation; being undeviated they returned to their homes which

they continued to occupy unmolested, to the close of the war. On the 1st of October, General Harrison proposed to a Council of Officers a plan for the pursuit of Proctor (see McAfee) which was unanimously approved of. Our limits will not permit our following the army through this march, and we will therefore come at once to a final description of the celebrated Battle of the Thames.

On the 5th October, 1813, our army came up with the British and Indians under Proctor. The latter finding it impossible to escape from Harrison by flight, resolved to place his dependence for safety on the much vaunted valour and discipline of British troops, and had drawn up his army in battle array on the bank of the River Thames, in a position admirably calculated for resistance. His right flank was covered by a swamp, deemed impassable; his left by the river Thames. The Indians were posted beyond the swamp on the right of the British regulars, and were commanded by Tecumseh in person.

General Harrison had already formed the mounted regiment, and had issued orders for the formation of the infantry, when his eagle eye caught the enemies order of battle. They had formed in open column, that is with the space of five feet between the ranks. He appreciated at once the egresions, blunder, which Proctor had committed, and determined to avail himself of it. With surpassing quickness he changed his order of attack, refused his left to the enemies right, and resolved to try the effect of a charge of the mounted men, a manœuvre entirely his own, and for which no precedent can be found in the annals of military tactics. He therefore directed them, says the historian of the western war, an eye witness of the scene, "TO BE FORMED IN TWO CHANGING COLUMNS, AND RECEIVING THEIR (the enemies) FIRE TO CHARGE THROUGH THEIR RANKS, AND ACT AS ENCEASANCES MIGHT REQUIRE."

On forming the mounted regiment it was discovered that only one battalion of it could act efficiently against the British regulars. This battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel JAMES JOHNSON, (not Richard M. Johnson,) advanced to the attack of Proctor's army. Before they had come near enough to the enemy for effective operations, the latter commenced firing, by which the horses were frightened and some of them recoiling, caused a momentary confusion in the ranks. This delay afforded the British time to reload, but the columnns were instantly put in motion, and rushed down upon the enemy with irresistible impetuosity. The first and second rank broke and fled. The cavalry *conformably to General Harrison's orders* charged through them in every direction, and forming in their rear, poured destruction among them. Thus says McAfee, "THE WHOLE BRITISH FORCE, UPWARDS OF EIGHT HUNDRED STRONG WAS TOTALLY VANQUISHED AND THE GREATEST PART OF IT CAPTURED BY THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE MOUNTED REGIMENT UNARMED. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES JOHNSON, before the front line of infantry had got fairly in view of them.



Let the reader bear it in mind that Lieutenant Colonel James Johnson, commanded this Battalion, not RICHARD M. JOHNSON, as has been so often asserted of late. Resistance on the part of the British regulars under Proctor had ceased; in fact the enemy was vanquished and the field won. Proctor, himself, not liking General Harrison's new mode of attack, and his military education furnishing no check to it, *fairly ran off the field*. He was pursued by Major Wood, and being hard pressed, he abandoned his carriage, and fled into the forest. His carriage and sword became trophies in the hands of Wood.

After the route of the British regulars, some smart skirmishing took place on the left wing. General Harrison finding it impossible for Colonel Richard M. Johnson to bring the second Battalion under him, to act against Proctor's men, ordered him to cross the swamp and attack the Indians. This he did at the time of Proctor's retreat. He led on his men in good order, but was unfortunately wounded by the very first discharge. He however ordered his men to dismount and form in line, and just as this was done, he received a shot through the hand. He despatched the savages from whom he received it, and his wounds being painful he retired\* from the field, leaving Major Thompson in command of his battalion.†

In this conflict the opposing forces were nearly equal, being about 2500 on either side. The loss however, was wholly unequal. The Americans lost about 30 in all killed and wounded, whilst their foes lost 645 killed, wounded and prisoners.

Among the Indians attacked by Colonel Richard M. Johnson's battalion was the renowned Chief Tecumseh, who fell in the fight. A question has lately arisen as to who killed him. The friends of Colonel Johnson have claimed the merit for him. If there he merit in such an act, and it belongs to Colonel Johnson, we would not withhold it from him. The facts are as follows. Tecumseh was not distinguished from the rest of his tribe during the combat, nor was it known that he had fallen until General Harrison, to whom he was well known, pointed him out among the numbers who had fallen. His body was lying near the place where Colonel Johnson had received his last wound; along side of it lay another body, and the Colonel could not distinguish the one which he had slain. The merit of this deed, lies between Colonel Johnson and a Mr. King, a private in Captain Davidson's company. On this subject McAfee remarks.

"It is certain that the latter (Colonel Johnson) killed the Indian with his pistol, who shot him through the hand at the very place where Tecumseh lay; but another dead body lay at the same place, and Mr. King, a soldier in Captain Davidson's company, had the honour of killing one of them."

\* See McAfee, from p. 388 to 392, for these facts—Autœre vol. 3, p. 204-5—

† Col. Johnson's numerous wounds prove that he was in front of the battle.

Lieut. Col. JAMES JOHNSON and the Majors Payne and Thompson, were equally active, though more fortunate.—*Official account of the Battle.*

We are informed, that *Colonel Johnson* has never asserted that he killed this chief. He, it appears, is unwilling to wrest the laurels from the brow of Mr. King, and in justice to an humble but brave man, we may regret that others should be less scrupulous than Colonel Johnson. Thus terminated the glorious and memorable battle of the Thames. Upon no occasion has the flag of the Republic been borne more triumphantly against a foreign foe; on no occasion has its stars shown more brilliantly or its stripes flaunted more proudly, than on the banks of the river Thames. Much had been expected from Harrison's skill, but the result surprised even his most sanguine friends. His name became a theme of enlogy for the nation, and of admiration with the statesman.

The Honorable Landgon Cheves, on the floor of Congress said, "the victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a ROMAN GENERAL IN THE BEST DAYS OF THE REPUBLIC THE HONOUR OF A TRUMPER. HE PUT AN END TO THE WAR IN THE UPNEAST CANADA." James Madison, President of the United States, in his Message to Congress, declared, December 7, 1813, in speaking of the North West Army, says "THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE NORTH WEST ARMY, (HARRISON,) TRANSFERRED THE WAR THITHER (to Canada,) AND RAPIDLY PURSUING THE HOSTILE TROOPS FLEEING WITH THEIR ASSOCIATES FORCED A GENERAL ACTION, WHICH QUICKLY TERMINATED IN THE CAPTURE OF THE BRITISH, AND DISPERSION OF THE SAVAGE FORCE. *The result is signalis honorabile to MAJOR GENERAL HARRISON, by whose MILITARY TALENTS IT WAS PERFORMED.*"

Simon Snyder, the patriotic Governor of Pennsylvania, thus expresses his admiration of Harrison in his annual message to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, dated December 10, 1813, "THE BLESSINGS OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN RESCUED FROM THE SCALPING KNIFE OF THE RUTHLESS SAVAGE OF THE WILDERNESS, AND FROM THE STILL MORE SAVAGE PROCTOR, REST ON HARRISON AND HIS GALLANT ARMY."

What comment of ours can add force to the foregoing testimonials of Harrison's courage, prudence and patriotism? NONE.



## CHAPTER VI.

Harrison removes his troops to Niagara—sets out for Washington—urged by Madison to repair to Cincinnati—his resignation—causes of this step—feelings of the American people and army—Croghan's resistance to the Secretary's measures—Shelby interposes to prevent his resignation—remarks—notices of General Harrison by Col. Richard M. Johnson—Oliver H. Perry's opinion—General McArthur's testimony—civil services—elected to Congress—politics—an investigation into his conduct whilst in command of the army—a committee appointed—their report—triumphant acquittal—Congress bestows a gold medal on Harrison for his military services—his course in Congress—bill for the relief of veteran soldiers—bill regulating the militia—elected to the U. S. Senate—succeeds General Jackson as Chairman of the committee on military affairs—appointed minister to Columbia.

The victory of the Thames so brilliant in executing and so glorious in its results, having terminated our contest on the North-Western frontier, General Harrison resolved to remove a part of his troops to Niagara, to assist in the operations, then in progress at that place. The Secretary of war, had forwarded an order to him to this effect; but the benter, having been drowned it never reached him. Thus do we find him, a second time, anticipating the instructions of the government. On his arrival at Niagara, he found an order directing him to proceed to Sackets Harbour with his troops.—This being done, he set out for Washington.

His journey was one of triumph; he was every where received with enthusiasm and entertained with the most distinguished hospitality. New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, each, in its turn, rivalled the other in their demonstrations of regard for the man whom all hailed as their deliverer. On his arrival at Washington, he was urged, by the President, Madison, to repair to Cincinnati to superintend the measures then contemplated.

Shortly afterwards, the military career of General Harrison was brought to an abrupt close, by his resignation. The causes which impelled him to this step will be deemed more than sufficient, by every man who has the slightest knowledge of military etiquette, or even at all appreciates the strong sense of honour, with which, a conquering General's bosom must be animated. These causes must be two-fold: 1. The Secretary of war, Armstrong, in forming his plan for the ensuing campaign, had seen proper to supersede him in the command of Canada—the District which he had himself conquered.

2. The Secretary had opened a correspondence, with the subalterns of the army under his command; and even went so far as to issue orders to them directly, instead of communicating his orders, through the commander—a course which good discipline required to be observed, and which all previous

practice had sanctioned.—In this unjustifiable and outrageous course, on the part of the Secretary of war, no sufficient reason has ever been assigned; and conjecture is baffled by the enquiry, why a General, who by the force of his military genius, had expelled the enemy from our shores, had subdued a hostile territory, who was neither accused nor suspected of any impropriety should be deprived of the command of the field where his arms had triumphed.

The second measure of the Secretary, independent of the indignity offered to Harrison, had the effect of destroying all discipline, in the army. It is scarcely necessary to investigate the causes of this step of Secretary Armstrong. There are some minds, which, whilst they are incapable of attempting any thing great themselves, are, at the same time, equally incapable of appreciating the merit of others—there are others, fully adequate to a correct estimate of a patriot's worth, who either from meanness of soul or perverted reasoning, refuse to render them the worth due their achievements. The fault, in the former case, may be that of stupidity; in the latter, can only be that of malice or envy. Either of these characters will be found entirely deficient in all those qualities most prized by republicans, however they may abound in that sophistry so useful to the courtiers of despotism. We can not be far before both will be discarded from the service of a free and virtuous people. Mr. Secretary Armstrong was shortly after “turned out” of office by the indignant Madison; and his name is now almost forgotten, or if remembered is only kept alive by the suspicions, which attached to him, of having been necessary to the treason of Hull, at the surrender of Proctor, whilst William Henry Harrison, the wronged object of his violent opposition, has but recently been nominated, by a large body of his fellow citizens, as a candidate for the highest office in their gift. Whether elected or not he has secured to himself such a place in their affections, as will safely transmit his name to the latest posterity.

These measures, on the part of the Secretary, were received with disgust by the whole American People, and were viewed with equal abhorrence by the army. To show the feelings with which they were received by the army, we will give an extract from a letter to Harrison written by Croghan, THE HERO OF SAXAPASSEY, after the occasion of one of the officers, under his command, being ordered by the Secretary on a particular duty.

“ Maj. Holmes has been notified by the *war department*, that he is chosen to command the land troops, which are intended to co-operate with the fleet, against the enemy's fleet, on the upper Lakes. So soon as I may be directed. BY YOU (*Harrison*), to order Maj. Holmes *on that command, and to furnish him with the necessary troops, I shall do so; but not till I receive you, or any other part of my troops LEAVE THE SOO.”*

On receiving notice of this interference in his immediate duties, by the Secretary, Harrison immediately resigned his command. Gov. Shultz being



informed of this wrote to the President, remonstrating against his acceptance of it, but the President being absent from Washington, the Secretary, successively to the President, wrote of its arrival, and when the *Advertiser* informed of it, he expressed his regret that the country had been thus deprived of his services.

Thus closed the *military career* of Major General Harrison, one of America's most upright, and successful commanders. We hazard nothing in saying, that as an officer, he has had but few equals, in one particular at all events, he seems to have had no parallels; in securing and retaining the affections of his officers and men. In an army of republicans, the love which the soldier bears his commander and the confidence he places in him, are, at all times, the chief incentive to exertion. The Americans on becoming soldiers, never divest themselves wholly of the character of citizens. Discipline may modify their habits, temperance and absence from home may for a time estrange their domestic affections, still they know and feel that, in all the essential rights of man, they and their superiors are equals; that the authority of the commander is but a trust granted on account of superior knowledge or sagacity, but which he holds, and is bound to exercise, for the benefit of the whole. They know that when the invader shall be expelled from the soil of freedom, they and he shall stand on the same level, enjoying only the same rights, protected by the same laws, and obliged to render to society the same duties.

So long as they continue bound to him by the silken chain of affection, their obedience, will be cheerful and implicit; but let them but once suspect his capacity or integrity, and the voice of discord and insubordination will be heard, even amid the din of battle, or the plaudits of victory. To this fact, Harrison seemed to have been equally alive; and accordingly, we at all times find him like Washington, scrupulously respectful of the rights, and even feelings of those, who had enrolled themselves for the defence of their country; willing, my anxious to nullify the severity of military discipline, and render it as consistent and conformable as possible with those civil rights for which they were contending.

It is scarcely necessary to state the estimation in which he was held by the officers under his command. In no instance which has reached us, has the voice of one of them been raised to discredit the commander who led them to victory; but to their or his honour, be it said, whenever he has been attached by the voice of calumny, they have, as by a common impulse raised, in his defence, thus proving themselves worthy of the laurels which they wear.

The following extracts are from men too distinguished to be passed over in silence. We owe it to their authors to make them public.

COL RICHARD M. JOHNSON under date July 4, 1813, thus addresses General Harrison, at that time commander in chief. He says—

“WE WOULD NOT HAVE ENGAGED IN THE SERVICE WITH.

OUT SUCH A PROSPECT, WHEN WE RECOLLECTED WHAT DISASTERS HAVE APTENED US FOR THE WANT OF GOOD GENERALS. WE DID NOT WANT TO SERVE UNDER GOWARDS, DRUNKARDS, OLD FOOLISH, VILER TRAVERS, BUT UNDERTAKERS, WHO HAD PROVED HIMSELF TO BE WISE, PRUDENT, AND BRAVE. THE OFFICERS OF THE MOUNTED REGIMENT HAD SO LITTLE OF ADDRESSING YOU ON THEIR ARRIVAL TO THE ARMY OR YOUR ARMY IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANADA, AND OF GIVING YOU A STATEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE REGIMENT SUFFICIENT FOR SUCH A DESIGN, BY RECRUITING THEIR HORSES.”

THE IMMORTAL PERRY, who wrote him in the same year, says—

“You know not his love of opinion to the public service, and his contempt of it. I pride myself not a little, I assure you, in having only one man being verified; yes, MY DEAR FRIEND, I expect soon to have you at the chief who is to redeem the soul of our *west* in the *world*.”

Another distinguished witness of the conduct of Harrison—General McArthur, who had served under him, wrote to him in 1814:—“Yes, sir, *that* he *fought with the militia of that state of Long General in the service, and was confident that no man can fight them to a great advantage, and I think their enemies' solicitude may be the means of calling you to his frontier.”*

When Perry, who served as his aid-de-camp at the battle of the Thames, remonstrated kindly on his exposure of his person in the skirmish at Chatham, shortly previous to the battle, he intrepidly replied “*that it was necessary that a General should set the example.*”

Although General Harrison had retired from the army, it could not be expected, that talents, such as he possessed, should long remain unemployed. In a government based upon, and supported by *public opinion alone*. Accordingly in the year 1816, he was triumphantly elected, by the people of Ohio, to fill a seat in Congress, at that time vacated by the resignation of the Honorable John McLean. To furnish our readers an idea of the feeling which pervaded the west in his favour, at the time, we will only state, that although there were six opposing candidates, the vote received by him exceeded the number polled by the whole of them, more than *one thousand votes*. A more triumphant vindication of his claim, a more well deserved one, could not be imagined. He

publicly have long been famed for ingratititude. The reproach has at length become a by-word, but we feel confident, that, in no case, where the merit of an individual has been known, has it ever been unappreciated by the people, however it may have been disregarded by their faithless servants. Shortly after he took his seat in Congress, one of the army contractors



which was laid against him and Richard M. Johnson, a charge of misconduct whilst the former was in command of the army. General Harrison boldly met the charge and solicited an investigation of Congress.

A committee of Congress was appointed on the subject, who reported that *General Harrison and Richard M. Johnson stood above suspicion.*" At a subsequent stage of the enquiry, the matter was referred to the Secretary of War, who reported that General Harrison had been guilty of *no impropriety of conduct that upwards of a million and a half of dollars had passed through his hands during the war, no part of which had been applied to his own use; that from the evidence furnished to him it appeared that General Harrison was poorer at the end of the war than he was at the beginning of it.* In relation to this subject, Mr. Halbert, (one of the committee) remarked as follows:

"IN FINE, I FEEL MYSELF AUTHORIZED TO SAY, 'THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE IS FULLY SATISFIED THAT THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL HARRISON IN RELATION TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ENQUIRY HAS BEEN THAT OF A BRAVE, HONEST, AND HONOURABLE MAN.'

Such testimony as this, in the hour of victory, when the bosom of every American beat high and warm with the exultations of triumph, might derive a part of its weight from the enthusiasm of national feeling; but let it be recollect that this was some three years after the eclat of his victories had pervaded the land. The report was made in the full function of peace, by a disengaged legislator, acting under the solemn obligations of an oath.

It was during the pendency of this enquiry that a resolution was introduced into the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Barlow, of Virginia, to grant to General Harrison and Governor Shultz, a gold medal, commemorative of the services they had rendered the country. This resolution, on motion of Mr. Laycock, of Pennsylvania, was postponed indefinitely. The postponement has lately been acted on, by the opponents of General Harrison, as a mark of disapprobation. But, the reader will perceive, at a glance, that it was impossible to pass it without forestalling the objects of the enquiry. Had it been passed, it was such an evidence of the approval of Congress, as would have rendered the enquiry useless. Had it been negative, injustice would have been done a brave and patriotic man.

The only course was to postpone it, and, at day, subsequent to the report of the committee, the resolution came up and passed the Senate UNANIMOUSLY, and the H. of Representatives with ONE dissenting voice. The medal thus presented, was worthy of the donor and not less of him who was the recipient of the honour which uttered it. We announce a description of it. Mr. Hall remarks, that General Harrison had two objects in view in accepting the seal in Congress. The one was to

He was placed at the head of the committee to whom the organization of the Militia System was referred, and in due time, introduced a bill accompanied with a report, in which he endeavored to establish these points.

1st. "That a government like ours should rely upon its militia for defence rather than on a standing army.

2. "That the militia should be disciplined.

3. "That a state of discipline adequate to the object could only be attained, by a system of instruction, combined with the ordinary education of youth." Our limits will not permit us to furnish our readers with an abstract of his argument on this subject, the theory of which, was so ably sustained by the very experience of its author, but will content ourselves with remarking that it was submitted to the executive, and was approved by all the heads of departments, especially by Mr. Monroe and Mr. Crawford.

Whilst in Congress, Harrison warmly advocated the acknowledgment of the Independence of the South American Republics. In the year 1824, he was elected to the Senate of the United States, in which body he succeeded General Jackson as *Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.*

He introduced a bill into the Senate to reduce the duty on salt, and was the most zealous champion of a bill, to confer the appointment of cadets at West Point, on the sons of those, who had fallen in battle.

He also warmly urged the claims of *our veteran soldiers, upon government for support*, and although unsuccessful in procuring a modification of our pension system, his efforts on this subject cannot soon be forgotten by those who were the objects of his humane interposition.

The next distinguished station filled by Harrison, was that of Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Columbia, to which he was appointed in the year 1826. The difficulties which he found existing in that Republic, induced him to write his celebrated letter to Bolivar, dated Bogota, September 27, 1829.\* We hazard little in saying, that in point of sound republican doctrine, it is second to no document extant. From that time to the present period, his life has been comparatively private.

\*We recommend this letter to the perusal of every republican.

















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